Two, there is no point in giving export credit or talking about lowering interest rates unless you have a sensitive lending technology. There has to be a lean lending technology so that you can be sensitive to the market. On the other hand, you have the BIFR sitting like one monolith. It makes recommendations which banks do not execute. So, we are in a catch-22 situation as far as industry is concerned.

I want to ask of the hon: Minister: what specific steps is he taking to increase this growth?

I am running out of time. Therefore, I am sitting down.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Madam, I do not know about the lending technology. I do not know what it means.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: You should know that. I will tell you.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I am not the Finance Minister. So, I will pass on this point about lending technology to the Finance Minister. If it is available in India and if it is possible, we will make use of it.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: It is. It is. It is. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: If it is to be imported, I will ask the Commerce Minister to provide...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: At what cost? That is the crucial factor.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Who is lending it to us? You have to find out that also..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: The system, the procedure and indexing are known as lending technology. ....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Madam, it has been taken care of. I think now banks are flooded with money. The point is that they have to shed shyness. They are still shy. They have to lend money to investors. I think, after the Budget, the atmosphere is very good. The sentiments are good.

A meeting of the Reserve Bank Governor and the Finance Ministry people is taking place today. I think they will give us a good news. I think, very soon the market will pick up.

I want to add one more thing. The industrial growth rate during April and October is 9.8 per cent. Even if it continues like that or even if it remains like that, it would be the second highest growth in the last 25 years, more so after 1980-81. Therefore, we are sure, Madam, and we are optimistic that this year's growth will reach about 10 per cent or more. I mean the industrial growth.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, I am only confused by the answer given by the Minister. If the Minister is right, then something is seriously wrong with the Government statistics because over the last three years the exports have grown at the rate of 20 per cent or so, but he says that the industry is not growing because of lack of export demand.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time is lacking now. The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Foreign direct investment proposal

*302. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) number of foreign . direct investment proposals granted uptill now since the inception of the new policy;

(b) out of these how many have become functional;

(c) what is the total amount of investment;

(d) out of this how much has actually come from abroad; and

(e) number of cases pending and by when these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) During the post-Policy period i.e. from August, 1991 to December, 1996, a total number of 5655 proposals for foreign direct investment have been approved.

(b) Implementation details of foreign investment projects are not centrally maintained. We have however initiated a mechanism to monitor progress of approved Mega Projects.

(c) and (d) The total amount of foreign direct investment envisaged in these proposals is US $ 32.66 billion. According to Reserve Bank of India, the total inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) amouts to US $ 6.37 billion during the period August, 1991 to December, 1996.

(e) Filing of applications for approval is a continuous process. Applications filed are considered by FIPB and decided by Government as per the existing policy normally within a period of six weeks from the date of filing. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) takes about two weeks to issue approvals under the automatic approval route. As on 6-3-1997, 144 proposals for foreign direct investment are pending for decision with FIPB and 71 proposals are pending with RBI.

भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा खुले बाजार में गेहूं की बिक्री

*306. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या खाद्य मंत्री 3 मार्च, 1997 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 943 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1996-97 के दौरान प्रति-माह भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा गेहूं की कितनी-कितनी मात्रा खुले बाजार में बेची गई और किस दर पर; और

(ख) खुले बाजार में बिक्री के लिए गेहूं जारी करने में क्या प्रक्रिया अपनायी जाती है?

खाद्य मंत्री तथा नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव): (क) 1996-97 में (28.2.97 को स्थिति के अनुसार) भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा खुले बाजार में बिक्री योजना (घरेलू) के अधीन लगभग 3.63 लाख टन गेहूं बेची गई है। बेची गई मात्रा के माहवार ब्यौरे विवरण-I पर है। (नीचे देखिए) 1996-97 के दौरान गेहूं के मूल्य बताने वाला विवरण –II पर है। (नीचे देखिए)

(ख) खुले बाजार में गेहूं की बिक्री की नीति/प्रक्रिया की समय-समय पर समीक्षा की जाती है। अगस्त, 96 तक सामान्यत: खरीददारों का चयन करने में "पहले आओ पहले पाओ" के सिद्वांत पर आधारित प्रक्रिया अपनाई जा रही थी। सरकार ने खुली बिक्री की प्रक्रिया की समीक्षा की और संशोधित मार्गदर्शी सिद्वांत जारी किए जो 1.9.1996 से प्रभावी हुए। इनमें भारतीय खाद्य निगम के क्षेत्रीय स्तर पर आवेदकों की उचित पहचान करके तीन सदस्यीय समिति द्वारा आवंटियों का चयन करना शामिल था, इस समिति में (1) उस क्षेत्र में भारतीय खाद्य निगम के वरिष्ठ क्षेत्रीय प्रबंधक (2) निदेशक, खाद्य एवं नागरिक आपूर्ति से संबंधित राज्य सरकार अथवा उनका प्रतिनिधि और (3) संयुक्त प्रबंधक (लेखा) शामिल होते थे। इसके अलावा एक आवेदक द्वारा खरीदी ज सकने वाली अधिकतम मात्रा और 10% बयाना राशि जमा कराने की शर्त थी।

दिसम्बर, 1996 में संशोधित की गई प्रक्रिया के अनुसार भारतीय खादय निगम खुली बिक्री योजना के अधीन आवंटित गेहूं उन राज्य सरकारों के लिए रिलीज़ करता है जो जिला कलेक्टरों/राज्य एजेन्सियों के माध्यम से इसकी बिक्री करने के इच्छुक होते है। जहां राज्य सरकारें गेहूं की खुली बिक्री करने की इच्छुक नहीं है वहां तीन सदस्यीय समिति के माध्यम से वितरण करने की वर्तमान प्रणाली जारी है। इच्छुक खरीददारों के लिए यह वचन देना अपेक्षित होता है कि वे गेहूम /गेहूं उत्पादों को राज्य सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित मूल्यों पर उसी राज्य में बेचेंगे।